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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION

(Effective 9 September 1982)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947 and Executive Order 12333, policies and procedures are hereby established for national photographic interpretation.

1. Purpose

To ensure the most effective exploitation of photography, the Central Intelligence Agency is assigned responsibility for the administration of a National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) as a service of common concern on behalf of the Intelligence Community.

2. Primary Responsibilities

The Central Intelligence Agency shall operate and administer NPIC which shall, as a service of common concern:

- a. provide on a selective basis for the interpretation of photography and make distribution to appropriate elements of the Intelligence Community;
- b. receive foreign intelligence photography from photographic processing facilities and make such photography available to designated photographic intelligence units within the Intelligence Community;
- c. maintain on a selective basis a consolidated central file of photographic data;
- d. make recommendations on common standards for the Intelligence Community regarding the handling of photographic data;
- e. engage in or sponsor the development of specialized equipment for the exploitation of photographic data;
- f. in coordination with the Security Committee, make recommendations on special security controls;
- g. be responsive to COMIREX guidance to satisfy national interpretation requirements;
- h. receive direct tasking by NFIB members who lack their own photographic interpretation capability; and
- i. support Intelligence Community photographic interpretation units, provided that there is no degradation of NPIC's primary mission and functions.

3. Intelligence Community Responsibilities

Intelligence Community components shall make foreign intelligence photographic information available to NPIC without delay.

Intelligence Community components shall provide appropriate staff and other support to NPIC by agreement between the DCI and the individual components.

SECRET

SECRET

4. Organization

The Director, NPIC, shall be appointed by the Director of Central Intelligence with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense.

Intelligence Community personnel assigned to NPIC will perform functional duties as determined by the Director, NPIC. They will remain administratively responsible to their parent organizations.

In time of war, the administration of NPIC will be transferred to the Secretary of Defense when directed by the President.

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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